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# *The Gem State Guardian*

The official newsletter of the  
**Idaho National Guard**

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## **Idaho Army National Guard Officer candidates complete combined Phase III**

By MAJ. Kraig Galloway

The Idaho Army National Guard commissions roughly 20 new officers each year. There are two primary commissioning sources available to hopeful candidates: State Officer Candidate School and the Reserve Officer Training Corps.

The State OCS program is conducted over 18 months of drill including two Annual Training Periods. The training immerses candidates into several high-stress environments, providing cadre an opportunity to develop, evaluate, mentor and validate the performance of these potential future officers.

In July, 11 Idaho OCS candidates attended the consolidated two-week phase III training. Phase III includes hundreds of candidates and cadre from all corners of the U.S. All of the Idaho OCS candidates successfully completed the training and exemplified the work ethic and leadership abilities that have

Below: OC Adam Bell (right) applies camouflage during a pre-combat check prior to a squad lane. Candidates bivouac at a tactical training base in the field for during the event. Photo by WAARNG



Idaho National Guard Officer Candidate (OC) Peter Spear engages opposing forces with an M-249 machine gun during a squad training exercise July 22-25. The exercise gave candidates an opportunity to apply troop leading procedures in a tactical environment as they receive an order, plan their mission and delegate duties and responsibilities to members of their team. Strong leadership and decision-making abilities are two critical skills required to successfully complete the exercise. Photo by WAARNG

become synonymous with the Idaho Army National Guard. These candidates are schedule to graduate and commission in September.

If you think you have the leadership skills and motivation to become a commissioned officer, contact the Officer Strength Manager at (208) 272-4167.



Above: OC Jeremiah Glenwinkel evacuates and transports a casualty during consolidation portion of patrol lane. OC's are evaluated in one of several leadership positions including Platoon Leader, Platoon Sergeant and Squad Leader. Photo by WAARNG



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